

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA:WHLUERS:WDROGERS;JLP

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AF: MR. MULCAHY(DRAFT)

S/S:-O:PJOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY

S E C R E T STATE 305226 TOSEC 250093

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CU, GY, AO

SUBJECT: REMARKS BY VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR

REF: GEORGETOWN 2213; GEORGETOWN 2220

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. YOU MAY TELL JACK ORALLY, PRIVATELY AND EM-PHATICALLY, THAT WE HAVE AT NO TIME CONTEMPLATED THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST GUYANA ON THIS ISSUE.

2. WE ARE COMPLETELY CONFOUNDED BY THE REMARKS OF THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN THIS REGARD. WE HAD EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO VENEZUELA ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF CUBAN USE OF CARIBBEAN AIRPORTS FOR REINFORCING THEIR TROOPS IN ANGOLA. WE SUGGESTED IF THEY SHARED OUR CONCERNS THE VENEZUELAN MIGHT INTERCEDE WITH GOG. WE AT NO TIME MENTIONED NOR HINTED AT THE USE OF FORCE. NOR

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DID WE ASK VENEZUELA TO INTERCEDE ON OUR BEHALF, BUT

IF IT SEEMED IN VENEZUELA'S INTEREST TO DO SO.

3. WE HAVE SUGGESTED MERELY THAT GUYANA, IN ITS OWN INTEREST, LIMIT CUBA'S USE OF GUYANESE AIR FACILITIES TO THE CIVIL AIR OPERATION CONTEMPLATED IN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THOSE TWO NATIONS. WE DID NOT SOLICIT A

FAVOR BY GUYANA FOR THE UNITED STATES, BUT RATHER AN ACT WHICH WE THOUGHT SHOULD COMMEND ITSELF TO GUYANA'S OWN NATIONAL GOOD. AND WE CERTAINLY INTENDED NOTHING WHICH WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A THREAT.

4. YOU MAY ADD, IF AND AS YOU SEE FIT, THAT OUR POLICY IN THE ANGOLAN QUESTION IS ENTIRELY ORGANIZED AROUND ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER AND THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT NATIONS SHOULD AVOID RESORT TO FORCE TO SOLVE DISPUTES. WE TAKE THAT PRINCIPLE SERIOUSLY. WE DO NOT PROPOSE IN ANY WAY TO ESCALATE THE SCALE AND DIMENSIONS OF THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT. WE WANT TO STOP THE WAR, NOT EXPAND IT. WE ARE STRAINING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION. THIS IS THE REASON WHY WE SUPPORT WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES NOW IN ANGOLA; WHY WE SEEK AN AFRICAN SOLUTION; WHY WE THINK IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR CUBA TO CONTINUE TO SEND ITS TROOPS TO FIGHT AFRICANS; AND WHY GUYANA SHOULD, IN ITS OWN ENLIGHTENED DEDICATION TO THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES, NOT COOPERATE WITH AND SUPPORT, BY THE USE OF ITS AIR FACILITIES, CONTINUED CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AN INTERNAL AFRICAN CONFLICT. THE PRINCIPLE AT ISSUE HERE IS A PRINCIPLE IN WHICH THE SMALLER STATES MUST SENSE A PARTICULAR CONCERN. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE HAD HOPED OUR SUGGESTION WOULD FIND FAVOR IN GUYANA'S EYES.

5. WE DID NOT PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SUGGESTION TO BARBADOS BEFORE BARBADOS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD DENY ITS AIR FACILITIES TO CUBA. HOWEVER, ONCE HAVING INDICATED TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT WE HAD COMMUNICATED WITH BARBADOS ABOUT AIR FACILITIES IT SEEMED BOOTLESS FOR US TO FUDGE A POINT-BLANK QUESTION WHETHER WE WERE ALSO PREPARED TO COMMUNICATE TO GUYANA, WHEN THE PRESS HAD

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BECOME AWARE THAT THE CUBANS MIGHT VERY WELL BE SHIFTING THEIR REFUELING FROM BARBADOS TO GEORGETOWN. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SECOND CASE WAS NOT ON ALL FOURS WITH THE FIRST. ROBINSON

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